(c) whether the official language is being neglected due to this practice; and

(d) if so, the action contemplated by Government to make Hindi magazines and newspapers available in adequate number?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) 50% Hindi magazines including regional language magazines are provided by Indian Airlines and the Airports Authority of India provides only the Hindi Newspapers in the lounge, and not the magazines.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Direct flights from Hyderabad and Bangalore to London

154. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether British Airways plans to start direct flights from Hyderabad and Bangalore to London;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps taken to introduce more direct services to Europe and United States to attract tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) British Airways have evinced interest to start operations from Hyderabad and Bangalore to London in near future. However, these two stations are not presently available to them as points of call and such proposals are to be considered during Government level bilateral civil aviation talks as and when held.

(c) Effective December, 2002, Air India extended their thrice weekly services to Paris to Newyork, which has subsequently been increased

to five. Air India has also introduced thrice weekly services to Frankfurt effective December, 2002. Additional capacity has also been granted to the designated airlines of some European countries like Italy recently. However, actual operations are matters of commercial judgement of the airlines concerned. Besides, a open sky policy was declared in respect of the designated airlines of European countries for the period December 2002 to June 2003. This has also enabled airlines like Lufthansa and Virgin Atlantic to mount additional services.

Bangalore Airport Project

155. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated moves for amendment of Airports Authority of India Act during the current Monsoon session of Parliament having cleared the Green-field International Airport at Devanahalli (Bangalore);

(b) whether a new hassle has cropped up with HAL/IAF and the AAI is involved in a row over the control of civilian air traffic over Bangalore;

(c) whether the airspace over Bangalore for use of civilian aircrafts is still under the control of HAL/IAF; and

(d) if so, how soon Government are going to sort out this problem and vest the rights of airtraffic control in the AAI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government constituted a core group to suggest an Integrated Air Space Management System for the proposed Bangalore International Airport, existing HAL Airport and Yelahanka Airbase of Indian Air Force; allocation of horizontal and vertical limits; and equipments for joint manning of air traffic. The core group has submitted its report in consultation with concerned organisations.